

planes, or fighter jets. It made all the difference when I shared Thanksgiving meals with them in Haiti, in Macedonia, in Bosnia.

That advice—"Take care of the troops, and they will take care of you"—has made all the difference as I learned from my mistakes, as I took pride in my achievements.

Today I say farewell to the President who honored me by asking me to serve as Secretary. I say farewell to my colleagues in the administration who worked with me to achieve common goals. I say farewell to my friends in the media, and in the Congress, and to the wonderful friends I have made in the embassies.

And I say farewell to our military leaders who have served our country so brilliantly. They have prepared our forces for war, but they are dedicated to peace. Elie Wiesel has said, "Peace is not God's gift to mankind. It is our gift to each other." And for the last four years peace is the gift we have given the American people.

But the hardest farewell to say is to the troops who have served me and whom I have served. Words cannot adequately describe my pride in you. So my farewell to you is a simple benediction:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you,

and give you peace.●

THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of the 4-year anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Approved by the Senate on January 29, 1993, this important legislation was the first bill of the 103d Congress signed into law by newly elected President Clinton.

Prior to the enactment of the family medical leave law, families already confronting the hardships caused by a seriously ill relative had an additional burden to bear: a fear of losing their jobs should they choose to stay home to care for a loved one. For workers striving to meet the competing demands of home and office, there was no consistent standard of protection.

The Family Medical Leave Act provides that basic standard of job security to more than 67 million American workers; guaranteeing employees up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn child or newly adopted child or to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition. In addition, the law enables workers to take medical leave when they themselves are unable to work because of a serious health condition—without fear of being fired or losing their health insurance.

After 4 years of successfully helping American families strike a balance between work and family, it is difficult to believe that it was necessary to struggle for many years and overcome two vetoes by President Bush in order to enact this fundamental protection for working Americans. Since its enactment, this law has enabled approximately 12 million men and women to take time off from work to meet the care-giving needs of their families.

While opponents of the Family Medical Leave Act raised concerns about the law's effect on business, their fears have been proven ungrounded by the congressionally charged Bipartisan Commission on Leave. The Commission on Leave, made up of business and labor leaders, representatives of women and families, and members of Congress, provided an initial assessment of the family medical leave law in April 1996. The Commission found that while the law has had a significant impact on employers' leave policies and practices, increasing the reasons for which employees can take leave, this impact has come with minimal administrative activities and almost no costs. In fact, a number of employers have reported a positive impact on business performance because of Family Medical Leave Act policies.

Mr. President, as a strong supporter and original cosponsor of this significant measure, I am especially pleased with the success of the family medical leave law. Because of this law, millions of Americans, who otherwise may have been forced to choose between the demands of home and workplace, have been able to meet both their personal and professional obligations. As fundamental as the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Social Security Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act, this law reaffirms the Democratic commitment to ensuring a measure of job protection to all hard-working Americans.

TRIBUTE TO W. PROCTOR JONES

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a Senate institution, Proctor Jones. His hard work and exceptional service have left a lasting mark on the Senate, and he will be sorely missed.

I have known and worked with Proctor Jones since I began my service in the Senate. After having served with one of the giants of the Senate—Senator Richard Russell—Proctor Jones has gone on to become a giant in his own right. His vast knowledge of appropriations has made him an invaluable asset to the committee. Since he began in 1960, his only time away from the Senate came in 1966, when he left Senator Russell's staff to serve in the Marine Corps. Apart from this brief hiatus, Proctor has been a part of the day-to-day operations of the Senate, and it will not be the same without him.

A native of Twin City, GA, Proctor came to work as Senator Russell's right-hand-man immediately after graduation from the University of Georgia. As he rose through the ranks on the Hill, Proctor found time to further his education at the George Washington University. In essence, he never stopped being a student, particularly of the Senate and its appropriations process.

In 1971, when he joined the Committee on Appropriations, Proctor

quickly became a part of the staff leadership. Under every Democratic chairman since 1973, he has been the staff director for the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and, under Chairmen McClellan and Stennis, Proctor was deputy staff director of the full committee. Serving under some of the most distinguished chairmen of this venerable committee—Senators Russell, Ellender, McClellan, Magnuson, Stennis, BYRD, and Hatfield—Proctor distinguished himself as a genius of compromise and an expert on the budget.

While the Senate has changed and evolved during Proctor's long tenure, he never lost his fervor for his job. Tireless is an adjective often used to describe public servants, but Proctor epitomizes this description. His seemingly endless supply of energy and love for the Senate made him a constant presence even at the latest of the late-night sessions. This veteran of the Senate has been intimately involved with the annual appropriations bills, as well as handling innumerable continuing resolutions, supplemental appropriations, and rescissions bills, and other measures relating to the appropriations process. Those of us who devote time to the task of appropriation know how grueling it can be. Through it all, Proctor Jones devoted himself completely, using his vast expertise in the service of his country.

In addition to his Senate work, Proctor is an active member of his church and community. He is also the proud father of two daughters, Heather and Lisa. It is my pleasure to speak today in tribute to Proctor Jones, and I wish him every happiness in his retirement.●

SENATE QUARTERLY MAIL COSTS

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, in accordance with section 318 of Public Law 101-520 as amended by Public Law 103-283, I am submitting the frank mail allocations made to each Senator from the appropriation for official mail expenses and a summary tabulation of Senate mass mail costs for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 1996 to be printed in the RECORD. The fourth quarter of fiscal year 1996 covers the period of July 1, 1996, through September 30, 1996. The official mail allocations are available for frank mail costs, as stipulated in Public Law 104-53, the Legislative Branch Appropriations act for fiscal year 1996.

The material follows:

SENATE QUARTERLY MASS MAIL VOLUMES AND COSTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 09/30/96

Senators	Total pieces	Pieces per capita	Total cost	Cost per capita	Fiscal year 1996 official mail allocation
Abraham	815	0.00009	\$209.83	\$0.00002	\$160.875
Akaka	0	0.00000	0.00	0.00000	48.447
Ashcroft	0	0.00000	0.00	0.00000	109.629
Baucus	0	0.00000	0.00	0.00000	46.822
Bennett	0	0.00000	0.00	0.00000	56.493
Biden	0	0.00000	0.00	0.00000	44.754